UNITED
NATIONS

S

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1997/372
16 May 1997

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE UNITED NATIONS DISENGAGEMENT OBSERVER FORCE

(for the period from 19 November 1996 to 16 May 1997)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The present report gives an account of the activities of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) during the past six months in pursuance of the mandate contained in Security Council resolution 350 (1974) and extended by subsequent resolutions, most recently by resolution 1081 (1996) of 27 November 1996.

II. SITUATION IN THE AREA AND ACTIVITIES OF THE FORCE

2. During the period under review, the ceasefire in the Israel-Syria sector was maintained without serious incident and the Force's area of operation remained calm.

3. UNDOF supervised the area of separation by means of fixed positions and patrols to ensure that no military forces were in it. The Force also carried out fortnightly inspections of armament and force levels in the areas of limitation. Liaison officers from the party concerned accompanied the inspection teams. As in the past, both sides denied inspection teams access to some of their positions and imposed some restrictions on the Force's freedom of movement.

4. UNDOF assisted the International Committee of the Red Cross with facilities for mail and the passage of persons through the area of separation. Within the means available, medical treatment was provided to the local population on request.

5. The Force Commander and his staff maintained close contact with the military liaison staffs of Israel and the Syrian Arab Republic. Both sides cooperated with the Force in the execution of its tasks.

6. As of May 1997, UNDOF comprised 1,053 troops from Austria, Canada, Japan and Poland (465, 188, 45 and 355 troops respectively), as well as four United

Nations military observers detailed from the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO). In addition, UNDOF was assisted by the 73 UNTSO military observers of the Observer Group Golan (OGG). Major-General Johannes C. Kosters (Netherlands) continued as Force Commander. A map showing the Force's deployment is attached.

III. FINANCIAL ASPECTS

7. By its resolution 50/20 B of 7 June 1996, the General Assembly appropriated to the Special Account for UNDOF an amount of $32,254,900 gross for the maintenance of the Force for the period from 1 July 1996 to 30 June 1997. The assessment of the appropriation, which is equivalent to $2,687,908 gross per month, is subject to the decision of the Security Council to extend the current mandate of UNDOF.

8. The budget proposed for the period from 1 July 1997 to 30 June 1998 (A/51/405/Add.2) is currently under consideration by the General Assembly. Subject to the Assembly's decision, the cost of maintaining UNDOF at its authorized strength for that period would be $32,368,000 gross, which is equivalent to $2,697,333 gross per month.

9. Unpaid assessed contributions to the Special Account for UNDOF as at 30 April 1997 amounted to $48.2 million. Total outstanding assessed contributions for all peacekeeping operations as at 30 April 1997 amounted to $1.64 billion.

IV. IMPLEMENTATION OF SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 338 (1973)

10. In deciding in its resolution 1081 (1996) to renew the mandate of UNDOF for a further period of six months, the Security Council also called upon the parties concerned to implement immediately its resolution 338 (1973) and requested the Secretary-General to submit, at the end of the period, a report on the developments in the situation and the measures taken to implement that resolution.

11. The search for a peaceful settlement in the Middle East and, in particular, the efforts undertaken at various levels to implement Security Council resolution 338 (1973) were dealt with in my predecessor's report on the situation in the Middle East (A/51/543), submitted in pursuance of General Assembly resolutions 50/22 A and B of 4 December 1995.

V. OBSERVATIONS

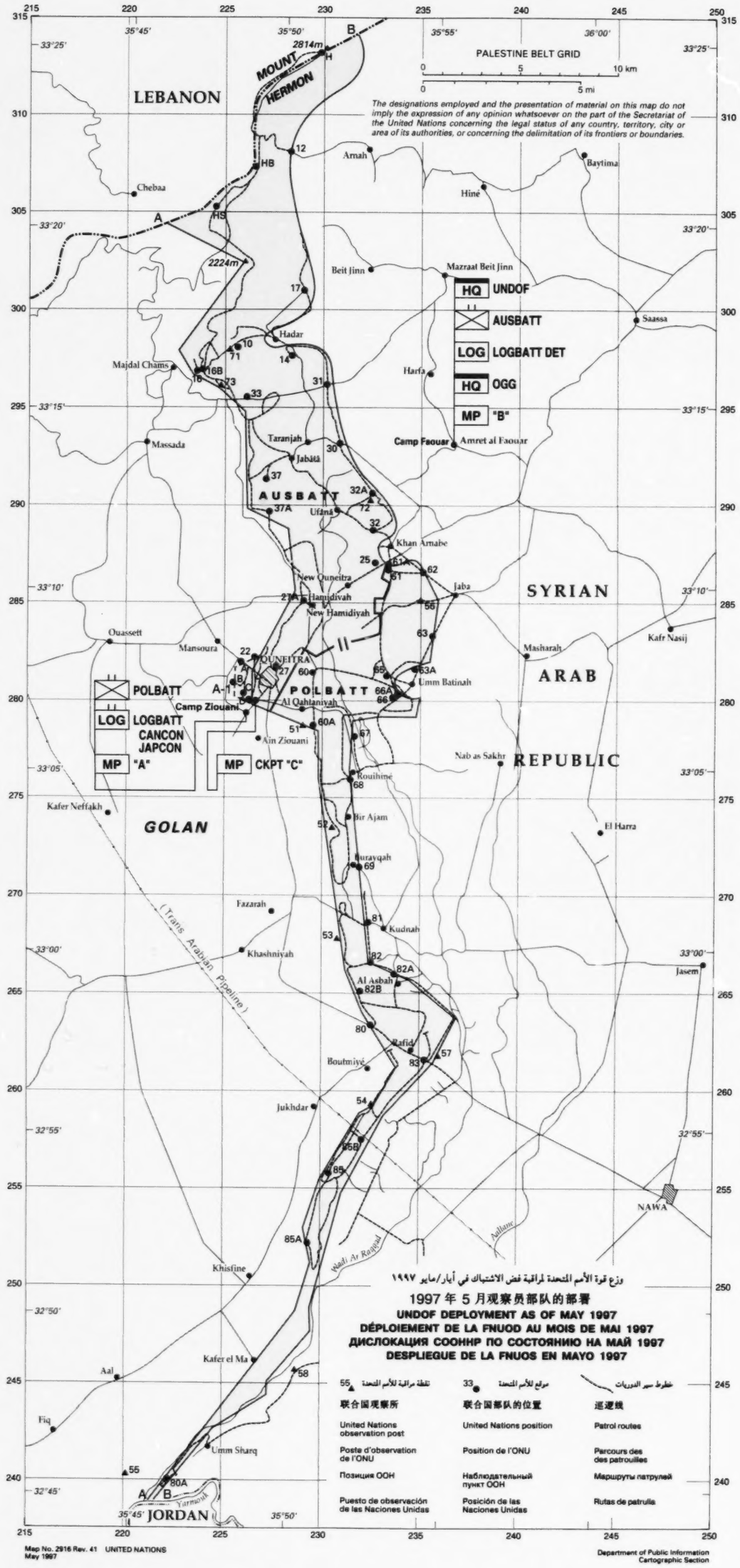
12. UNDOF, which was established in May 1974 to supervise the ceasefire called for by the Security Council and the agreement on disengagement between Israeli and Syrian forces of 31 May 1974, has continued to perform its functions effectively, with the cooperation of the parties. The situation in the Israeli-Syrian sector has remained quiet and there has been no serious incident.

13. Despite the present quiet in the Israeli-Syrian sector, the situation in the Middle East continues to be potentially dangerous and is likely to remain so, unless and until a comprehensive settlement covering all aspects of the Middle East problem can be reached. I hope that determined efforts will be made by all concerned to tackle the problem in all its aspects, with a view to arriving at a just and durable peace settlement, as called for by the Security Council in its resolution 338 (1973).

14. In the prevailing circumstances, I consider the continued presence of UNDOF in the area to be essential. I therefore recommend that the Security Council extend the mandate of the Force for a further period of six months, until 30 November 1997. The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic has given its assent to the proposed extension. The Government of Israel has also expressed its agreement.

15. In making this recommendation, I must draw attention to the serious shortfall in the funding of the Force. At present, unpaid assessments amount to some $48.2 million. This sum, far larger than the current annual budget of UNDOF, represents money owed to Member States that contribute the troops who make up the Force. I appeal to all Member States to pay their assessments promptly and in full and to clear all remaining arrears.

16. In conclusion, I wish to pay tribute to Major-General Johannes C. Kosters and to the men and women under his command. They have performed with efficiency and devotion to duty the important tasks assigned to them by the Security Council. I take this opportunity to express my appreciation to the Governments contributing troops to UNDOF and to those that provide the UNTSO military observers assigned to the Force.


PALESTINE BELT GRID
0 5 10 km
0 5 mi
The designations employed and the presentation of material on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.
LEBANON
SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC
GOLAN
JORDAN
MOUNT HERMON
2814m
2224m
HQ UNDOF
AUSBATT
LOG LOGBATT DET
HQ OGG
MP "B"
POLBATT
LOG LOGBATT
CANCON
JAPCON
MP "A"
MP CKPT "C"
Camp Faouar
Camp Ziouani
Amret al Faouar
Mazraat Beit Jinn
Beit Jinn
Majdal Chams
Hadar
Harfa
Saassa
Massada
Taranjah
Jabata
Ufana
Khan Arnabe
New Ouneitra
Hamidiyah
New Hamidiyah
Jaba
Ouassett
Mansoura
Masharah
Kafr Nasij
Umm Batinah
Al Qahtaniyah
Ain Ziouani
Nab as Sakhr
Kouihine
Kafer Nefakh
Bir Ajam
El Harra
Burayqah
Fazarah
Kudnah
Khashniyah
Jasem
Al Asbah
Rafid
Boutmiyé
Jukhdar
NAWA
Khisfine
Wadi Ar Raqqad
Kafer el Ma
Aal
Fiq
Umm Sharq
Yarmouk
Allaan
(Trans Arabian Pipeline)
وزع قوة الأمم المتحدة لمراقبة فض الاشتباك في أيار/مايو ١٩٩٧
1997 年 5 月观察员部队的部署
UNDOF DEPLOYMENT AS OF MAY 1997
DÉPLOIEMENT DE LA FNUOD AU MOIS DE MAI 1997
ДИСЛОКАЦИЯ СООННР ПО СОСТОЯНИЮ НА МАЙ 1997
DESPLIEGUE DE LA FNUOS EN MAYO 1997
نقطة مراقبة للأمم المتحدة
联合国观察所
United Nations observation post
Poste d'observation de l'ONU
Позиция ООН
Puesto de observación de las Naciones Unidas
موقع للأمم المتحدة
联合国部队的位置
United Nations position
Position de l'ONU
Наблюдательный пункт ООН
Posición de las Naciones Unidas
خطوط سير الدوريات
巡逻线
Patrol routes
Parcours des des patrouilles
Маршруты патрулей
Rutas de patrulla
Map No. 2916 Rev. 41 UNITED NATIONS May 1997
Department of Public Information Cartographic Section